Identification of National Priorities by the Technology Policy Implementation Committee

31. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inter-departmental group established by the Technology Policy Implementation Committee, has identified specific areas of high national priorities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Technology Policy Implementation Committee (TPIC) has not established any inter departmental group. However, they had constituted a number of working groups related to the following areas of national importance:

—Design Engineering Consultancy
—Fiscal Policy
—Technology Forecasting
—Technology Development Fund
—International R&D Collaborations
—Technology absorption
—Techaologp Data Bank
—Technology Assessment & Evaluation
—Recyclying of Wastes
—Technology Monitoring
—Industrial Property Rights
—Development Contracts
—Environmental Hygiene

Non-inclusion of Advocates in Social Category for Grant of New Telephone Connections

32. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that advocates are not included in the special category for the purpose of granting of a new telephone connection; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRI DHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Only professionals like Doctors etc., who have to deal with cases of emergency nature are eligible for registration under Non-OYT Special Category. Advocates do not satisfy this criterion. However, legal aid committees, which render legal aid to the poor are entitled for special category.

Imported Machine Lying Unused in AIIMS, New Delhi

33. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE :
SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in 'the Hindustan Times', dated 31st May, 1989 under the caption 'Rs. 2 crore machine at AIIMS lying unsued'

(b) if so, whether Government have since inquired into the matter as to how the machine for dissolving kidney stone, imported by AIIMS, has not been used for the last one year ;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for not using the machine and whether Government propose to fix any responsibility in the matter ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Lithotripsy machine has already been installed in All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. It is functional and is under the period of trial. It could not be used earlier as at the time of its installation, it was observed that the existing air-conditioning facility was not sufficient for the hot weather. The additional air-conditioning has been provided and the Department of Urology has tested the disintegration of stone on a dummy and also conducted a successful trial on a patient whose stone disintegrated completely and the urinary tract was totally cleared of all gravel in about three weeks' time, indicating the efficacy of the machine.

Upgradation of Post Offices in Orissa

34. SHRI JAGADISH JANI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to upgrade some Post Offices in Orissa and to appoint additional staff in some sub-Post Offices, where the work load has been increasing ;

(b) if so, whether any Branch Post Office or Sub-Office has been identified for upgradation in that State ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Telephone Connections in Calcutta

35. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what was the number of telephone connections in Calcutta and its suburbs as on the 31st December, 1988 ; and

(b) the number of telephones currently in order and of those which were out of order, as on the 31st December, 1988 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) The number of telephone connections working in Calcutta and its suburbs as on 31st December, 1988 were 2,22,215.

(b) The number of telephones working in order as on 31st December, 1988 were 2,12,246 and those not in working order (faulty) were 9,969 only.

Death of People during Recent Strike by Doctors

36. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report which appeared in 'the Indian Express' dated the 1st June, 1989 regarding the death of some persons during the recent strike by Junior doctors becuase of the negligence in referring them to nephrologists who were not on strike and who refused to attend the critical patients in the Safdarjung Hospital ;

(b) if so, whether any such cases of negligence and refusal to